

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Cancelled)
2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 32 wherein the step of determining by said processor for said one program to be buffered is a predictive process, based on a frequency measurement of previously watched programs
3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 32 wherein the step of determining said one program of interest is a predictive process based on specific programs watched.
4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 32 wherein the step of determining said one program of interest is a predictive process based on the genre of programs watched.
5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 32 wherein the step of determining said one program of interest is a predictive process based on the recommendations of other users of the system.
6. (Original) The method of claim 5 wherein the recommendations of other users are extracted from Web Log entries.

7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 5 wherein the recommendations of other users are extracted by the processor from one or more messages from an instant messaging service.

8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 5 wherein the recommendations of other users are extracted by the processor from on-line reviews.

9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 5 wherein the recommendations of other users are extracted by the processor from one or more email messages.

10. (Cancelled).

11. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) In a system for distributing content to users over channels, said system including a microprocessor and a buffer for selectively storing content a method for buffering, the method comprising the steps of:

determining by the microprocessor, that ~~at least~~ a content of interest to at least one of said users is ~~within a predetermined time slot~~ available for recording;

buffering in a buffer a portion of said content for a first time period, said first time period being shorter than the duration of said content;

detecting, by said processor, if a user starts watching said ~~content on said presentation device~~ within said first time period; and

stopping the buffering of the program if a user does not start watching said ~~channel~~ content within said first time period

;
and

flushing said buffer after the buffering is stopped.

12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 11 wherein the step of determining that said content is available is performed on a channel is based on a list of channels most recently viewed by the user.

13. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 11 wherein the step of determining said one channel said content is a predictive process based on a frequency measure of channels watched within the same timeslot of a previous day.

14. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 11 wherein the step of determining said channel content is a predictive process based on a frequency measure of channels watched within the same time slot of a previous week.

15. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 11 wherein the step of determining said channel content is a predictive process based on the genre of channels being watched and previously watched.

16. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 11 wherein the step of determining said channel content is a predictive process based on recommendations.

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 11 wherein the buffering of the portion of said content ~~a program on said channel~~ continues until a ~~channel~~ content of higher interest is found, after which the buffering commences of a portion of a ~~program on said channel~~ said content of higher interest.

19-31 (Cancelled)

32 (CURRENTLY AMENDED). In a player in which programs are provided to various users, a method of time shifting a program comprising:

using a processor to determine if at least one program being distributed in the system is of interest to a user, said one program having a starting point and a program duration;

starting to buffer said one program from its starting point ~~if said processor determines that said program is of interest to to at least one of the users~~;

receiving a command to present said one program ~~from one of said processor to determine if the user starts watching said one program~~, said command being received after said buffering has started;

presenting said program from its starting point, automatically by said processor, in response to said command;

stopping said buffering if said command is not received within a predetermined time period after said starting time, said time period being shorter than said program duration; and

automatically erasing the portion of said program that has been buffered

33 (Cancelled).

34 (Cancelled).

35 (Previously Presented). The method of claim 11 wherein said timeslot is selected from a grid defining programs over an extended time period on different channels.

36 (Previously Presented). The method of claim 35 wherein said grid is a weekly grid and said timeslot defines a program distributed at a particular day, time and channel.

37-47 (Cancelled).

48 (NEW). The method of claim 11 wherein after the buffering of said content stops, the portion of the content that has been buffered is flushed.